



## A Note from the Chair Dr. Cynthia Allan

Department of Communication
Welcome to the 2015-2016 season of the Pittsburg
State Theatre! This is our first full season in the
wonderful Dotty and Bill Miller Theater here at the
Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. The facility is a
wonderful and intimate space for live performance.
We look forward to many wonderful years in our new
theatre "home" here at Pitt State. Our first production,
last spring's Eurydice, was a rousing success and
allowed us to stretch our wings in ways we have not
had before.

It also gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the alumni of the Pitt State theatre program. The excellent productions created by scores of previous

students are, in part, what helped cement the support and belief in the theatre program and the need for a real performing arts center. Whether you currently work in the theatre profession or not, your dedication to Pitt State Theatre while a student is appreciated and respected. You are the legacy of this program and you set the bar high. We honor you and thank you. Our alumni reunion last spring was a great success and we plan to have more on a regular basis.

The 2015/16 season begins October 22-25 with Charlotte's Web, the beloved tale of friendship, loyalty, and determination that will enchant the entire family. Directed by Megan Westhoff, this production is sure to be a hit.

Then, on December 3-4, we continue our tradition of Theatre Unplugged with the student-directed one-act plays produced in the Studio Theatre (entrance on Joplin Street). The Studio Theatre remains the venue we will use for the majority of student productions. Also included in this year's offering is an original script by graduate student, Marisa Hunn.

In the spring of 2016, Gil Cooper directs the raunchy and bawdy Shakespeare comedy, The Merry Wives of Windsor, in from February 25-28. This classic comedy is bound to help you shake off those winter blues! Finally, on April 21-24, Caitie Almond directs Neil LaButes The Shape of Things, a scathing contemporary drama about two students at a small Midwestern college. Hmmm...sound familiar? You definitely don't want to miss this one!

Finally, I want to remind our patrons that the move to a new space means new opportunities for PSU Theatre. One of these opportunities is the chance to offer more performances and we are pleased to announce the addition of Saturday matinees for each of our productions. This now provides 3 evening and 2 matinee productions. We hope you join us whatever time is convenient for you!

I am sure the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Communication and PSU Theatre join me in expressing our gratitude for your support and our sincere hopes that you enjoy the 2015/16 season.

Regards,

Dr. Cynthia Allan

### **Director's Notes**

#### Megan Westhoff

Although it may seem obvious, my favorite children's novel is Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. I remember having it read to me for the first time in the second grade and years later reading it on my own. I have always been captivated by the honesty and innocence in Fern, Wilbur, and Charlotte and their friends' lives.

Through this production process, I was surprised to learn that many others were first introduced to the characters by having the story read to them. To pay tribute to the fact that many heard the story for the first time, the narrators serve as an example of a modern family reading it to a younger family member while the characters' adventures come to life around them. The narrators also bridge the gap between a modern audience and the time period of the original story in 1952.

E.B. White was unhappy with the adaptations other than this stage version of Charlotte's Web because he believed they intended to make the story perpetually positive and happy. The journey of life is unpredictable and White advocated that the story remain happy at moments, sad in others and end with a feeling of hope.

Charlotte's Web is endearing 63 years after it was written and the themes of friendship, loyalty and determination still resonant today. It is a story of growing up and learning that adversity can be faced with the help of our dearest friends. As Wilbur tells his friends, "I can face anything with friends like you. Friendship is one of the most satisfying things in the world"

I hope for a moment you are transported to a time of a serene and idyllic existence and enjoy the Charlotte's Web storybook coming to life.



#### A PRACTITIONER & EXPERT PANEL

presented by the PSU Department of Communication

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## The Cast's Cherished Memories of Charlotte's Web

The first time I became familiar with this story was when it was read to me in grade school. We read it as a class and I haven't forgotten it since. I'm so excited to do this show and demonstrate the message of friendship and selflessness that is so central to this



- Breezi Hancock (Wilbur)

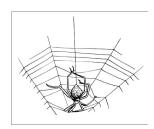


My first experience with Charlotte's Web was when I was a young girl of about eight years old... my mother needed to get me out of her hair, so she whipped out the good ol'VHS cartoon and sat me down in front of the TV. I was obsessed with that movie for about a week after watching it, and I always looked up to Charlotte as a sort of role model. So brave, so smart, and so small. Getting her role in this production was an

absolute honor!

Jaley Hoyt (Charlotte)





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I was first introduced to Charlotte's Web by my 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Croaker! She was a drill sergeant and very stern, yet, she read this book to us before she invited us to her farm for a picnic. There was a barn full of spring



spiders that were terrifying! In her own way, she was trying to comfort us about her barn filled with animals and spiders. Even though the story is sweet and precious and Mrs. Croaker wasn't, I still find the story endearing!

Susie Lundy (Sheep)

# Scenic and Lighting Designer's Memory



My first experience of Charlotte's Web was a VHS tape I would watch while eating breakfast before Grade School. I was captivated by the transitional scenes marking the seasons. Calendar pages would turn and leaves or snow would fall. It's a vivid memory I can still recall over twenty years later.



I've watched this movie Charlotte's Web when I was in elementary school. I love this movie sooo much! The Lamb hates everything at first, just like a teenager which is absolutely at the same age as me, 18 years old. However, I don't usually act in a nasty way in the reality. After knowing the new border, Wilbur, more, I started feeling that I don't hate her that much, even becoming to like her and wanting to help her.

Yuki Chou (Lamb)



#### Charlotte's Web

Based on the book by E.B. White

## Adapted by Joseph Robinette Directed by Megan Westhoff\* Scenic and Lighting Designed by Linden Little

Costume and Makeup Designed by Linden Little

#### Characters (in order of appearance)

Narrator: Alice	Ila Phelps*
Narrator: Rachel	Jocelyn Donegan*
Narrator: Tessa	Grace Hendrickson
Wilbur	Breezi Hancock*
Fern Arable	Marisa Hunn*
Martha Arable	Courtney Blakenship
John Arable	Brandon Norton
Avery Arable	Stephen Reida
Edith Zuckerman	Megan Reed*
Homer Zuckerman	Alexander Warstler
Lurvy	Melissa Long
Goose	Katia Arians
Gander/Uncle	Logan Qualls*
Templeton	Krista Hightower
Sheep	Susie Lundy
Lamb	Yuki Chou
Charlotte	Jaley Hoyt
Reporter/Fairgoer/Judge/Spider	Skyler Jones
Announcer/Spider	Hayley Rawson
Fairgoer/Judge/Spider	Mav Hsu

Time: 1952 and 2015

Place: The Narrators' Home, The Arables' Farm, the Zuckerman Farm, and the County Fair

Produced by special arrangment with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

No flash photography or video recording is permitted during the performance. Please make sure ALL cell phones are turned off. For the comfort of other audiences members, please take crying or fussy children to the lobby.

#### **Production Staff**

Technical DirectorLinden Little	
Stage ManagerKatlyn Weve	
Assistant Stage ManagerCatherine Duncan	
PropsLindsey Viets *	
Running Crew Eric Davis	
Light Board OperatorCaitie Almond*	
Sound Board OperatorNick Strang	
Multimedia DesignerLeo Hudson	
Lead Costume Technician	
Costume ConstructionMichaela West	
Corin Cooper	
Eric Davis	
Hair DesignMary Lou Farmer	
Make-up and Hair Crew Eric Davis	
Megan Reed* Hayley Rawson	
Jamera Allen	
Scenic Construction	
House ManagerOlivia Ellison	
Theatre Staff	
PR/Advertising ManagerLaura Stock	
Poster/Program ArtApril Huninghake	
Production PhotographerPaige Bowman	

<sup>\*</sup> indicates members of Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Honor Society

#### Special and Sincere Thanks to:

Pittsburg Community
Theatre
Brett Warstler
Ali Smith

Mimi Little
Jason Huffman and Memorial
Auditorium and Convention
Center

Mike Gullett
J J & M
The Quizzles
Ainslee Magee

Alexander Warstler Jack and Judy Richardson Alan Ross Blue Ribbon Farm and Home







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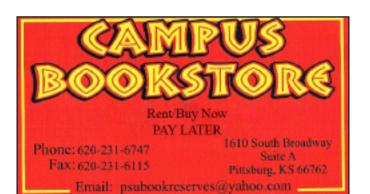
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Charlotte's Web impacted me because it taught me that friends come in all shapes and sizes. Charlotte and Wilbur became best friends despite their many differences. It also taught me that true friends stick around and do everything they can to help when things get hard. Charlotte saved Wilbur's life by writing in her web. These two friends are true role models for people of all ages.

Skyler Jones (Reporter/Fairgoer/Judge/Spider)